ANNUAL REPORT
APRIL 2024 – MARCH 2025

Canada Where We ll Belong

Office of Canada's
Special Representative on
Combatting Islamophobia

Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien

Canada

Office of Canada's
Special Representative on
Combatting Islamophobia

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Cat. No. CH1-50E-PDF
ISSN: 2819-6554

Dedication

To Canadian Muslim
youth who deserve
to grow up without fear,
proudly belonging.

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Message from Canada's Special Representative on Combatting Islamophobia

"What else can we do to stand with Canadian Muslims?"

This was a question posed to me during a presentation at the Islington United Church in Toronto this past January, to mark the National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque ttack and ction gainst Islamophobia.

Dozens of congregants had taken time following their Sunday worship to hear about the challenges facing Canadian Muslims, and which my Office is tasked with addressing at the federal level.

The Special Representative delivering a presentation at the Islington United Church in Toronto, January 26, 2025.

That question, and the heartfelt discussion that followed, demonstrates the incredible solidarity that Canadians of all backgrounds have shown towards their Muslim neighbours in a multitude of ways.

That solidarity is what drives our team's commitment to fostering a stronger Canada, one that is based on our shared values of inclusion and belonging.

nd in the face of growing hate and polarization, it will be incumbent on every Canadian who believes in those shared values to defend them.

Providing Guidance, Resources and Support

Our Office has been building on our work from our first year towards making that goal easier.

We launched the *Canadian Guide to Understanding and Combatting Islamophobia: For a more inclusive Canada,* the first of its kind to be released by a government, anywhere in the world. It is a resource which aims to familiarize, empower and equip the public – including educators, employers, law enforcement, students, decision-makers, and community leaders – on their journeys towards eliminating Islamophobia.

We worked with federal partners on training, educational materials, and presentations to help ensure inclusive and responsive workplaces and services.

We provided guidance and advice to the Prime Minister, Ministers, and Deputy Ministers aimed at ensuring that Canadian Muslims, like all Canadians, can live lives of dignity and free of hate and discrimination.

Our work is driven by ongoing, local community engagement with leaders and community members, including many young people, who know the stakes are high. Islamophobia can deter far too many Canadians from fully participating, creating barriers to individual and collective progress.

Challenges and Setbacks

dvancing a more inclusive Canada is an objective marked by constant setbacks and challenges. s Canadians have continued to call on governments and institutions to uphold international humanitarian law, they have faced attempts to silence them, often through racist and Islamophobic stereotyping and tropes.

The constant flow of dangerous rhetoric, both on and offline, has contributed to a climate where Islamophobic, anti-Palestinian, and anti- rab sentiment continue to be felt.

We have again heard from countless individuals and institutional leaders who have faced harassment, hate speech, online abuse, vandalism, and violence. In July 2024, Statistics Canada reported a 94% increase in police-reported hate crimes against Muslims in the previous year, a number which experts agree does not capture the full extent of hate due to underreporting.

What is reported is alarming. Perpetrators have threatened places of worship, bodily integrity, and the ability to speak freely about humanitarian issues.

To name a few examples: in Winnipeg, Manitoba, two men wielding an axe and a large knife attempted to break into a local mosque; in London, Ontario, a man deliberately set fire to the home of a Muslim family after they put up signs to support Palestinian human rights and to commemorate the Our London Family attack; and in jax, Ontario, a woman attempted to set fire to the hijab of a Muslim woman who was quietly studying at her local library.

Hope in Solidarity

The hopeful news is that many Canadians are refusing to permit these types of hateful, Islamophobic acts define our country.

Instead, acts of solidarity and inclusion abound: within days of the library attack, a community forum was held by the Town of jax to show support to the victim; in Cambridge, Ontario, Grade 10 students at a Catholic public school sent messages of love to the local mosque after it was vandalized; in Ottawa, Ontario, the local VI Rail station created a contemplation space to ensure that those needing a quiet space for reflection could find one; and across the country, communities of all backgrounds have continued to exercise their civil liberties in an unwavering commitment to standing up for the human rights and dignity of all people.

This nnual Report provides a snapshot of the ways our Office has supported the Government of Canada's efforts to foster a stronger Canada: a Canada where every person is treated fairly, with dignity, fully belonging and contributing to our shared prosperity.

Thank you for reading.

Amira Elghawaby

Canada's Special Representative on Combatting Islamophobia

For a third year, Amira Elghawaby continues in her important role to combat Islamophobia in Canada.

Islamophobia – an ongoing threat to human rights and social cohesion

Islamophobia — rooted in racism, prejudice, fear, stereotypes, and sometimes outright hostility towards Muslims — can be perpetuated at individual, institutional, and societal levels. Not only does it pose a serious threat to the well-being of Muslim communities, but it also increasingly harms broader social cohesion in Canada. t its core, Islamophobia undermines the safety and dignity of Canadian Muslims and fuels harmful narratives that depict them as security threats, which has consequences.

Several tragic acts of violence and terrorism have targeted Canadian Muslims. These attacks have left deep scars, making Canada the G7 country with the highest number of deadly, Islamophobic attacks, according to the National Council of Canadian Muslims. Canadian Muslims continue to report various acts of hostility, harassment and hate.

The Special Representative hugs the widow of one of the victims of the 2017 Quebec City Mosque attack during a private meeting at the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec on January 25, 2025.

The impact of Islamophobia goes beyond acts of violence. For many Canadian Muslims, it can manifest in daily life — through racism, discrimination, and bias in workplaces, schools, neighbourhoods, and even within public institutions meant to serve and protect all citizens equally.

Islamophobia's ongoing harms to Canada's social cohesion represents a threat to us all.

Federal Response to Tackling Islamophobia

Following the deadly terrorist attack on the fzaal family, fondly remembered as Our London Family, on June 6, 2021, Canadian Muslim communities called on the federal government to take further action to address Islamophobia. This call came just five years after six Quebec Muslim men were gunned down after evening prayers at their local mosque, and one year after a Toronto Muslim caretaker was stabbed to death in front of his place of worship.

The federal government accepted community recommendations to create the Office of the Special Representative on Combatting Islamophobia (OSRI) to advise the government on how to address Islamophobia and systemic racism more effectively.

Since 2023, mira Elghawaby, previously a journalist and human rights advocate, has held the role of Special Representative on Combatting Islamophobia. OSRI operates within the Department of Canadian Heritage, and the Special Representative reports to the Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister Responsible for Official Languages.

"Everyone living in Canada has the right to feel safe—in their communities, their neighbourhoods, their schools, and their places of worship. I thank the Special Representative on Combatting Islamophobia for her leadership and presence on the ground to ensure we listen to marginalized voices and that Muslim communities are heard. Canada is strong because of its people and the very values that define us: diversity and inclusion. And when everyone succeeds, Canada succeeds."

— The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister Responsible for Official Languages

The Special Representative meets with the Hon. Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister Responsible for Official Languages.

Vision, Mission, and Mandate

To help fulfill its role, OSRI has developed a vision, mission and outlined three key outcomes that are based on its comprehensive mandate.

Vision

Canada should be a place where Muslims are able to fully participate in every aspect of society, while freely practicing their faith and expressing their diverse identities, without fear of discrimination or hate.

Mission

OSRI will work with the federal government, and with communities and leaders across the country to advance the safety, security, inclusion, well-being, prosperity, and cultural vitality of Muslims in Canada.

Mandate

The Special Representative has an extensive mandate that can be described as covering three main areas: providing guidance and advice to policy makers, encouraging public education and awareness, and active engagement with Muslim and other stakeholders across the country to deliver impactful policy solutions. See the 2023-2024 nnual Report for further details on the Pillars of OSRI.

Key Outcomes and Mandate chievements for 2024-2025

The following table briefly summarizes various achievements of the past year and how these activities reflect the mandate and its key outcomes.

Key Outcome	Mandate Activities	Achievements
Supporting the federal government's efforts towards ensuring that Muslims in Canada are able to live with dignity, free from discrimination	• Providing guidance and advice in support of the Government of Canada's efforts to combat Islamophobia in Canada. • Supporting efforts to address systemic racism and Islamophobia through public education and awareness. • Promoting public awareness and understanding of Muslim communities in Canada by reframing narratives and combatting stereotypes, including highlighting diverse and intersectional Muslim identities through participation in commemorations and public events. • Proactively engaging with diverse stakeholders in Canada, including all of the varied Muslim communities around the country and other stakeholders, to advance community-informed solutions, policies, and actions. • Promoting Canada's activities in combatting Islamophobia through official Government of Canada communication channels.	• Launched The Canadian Guide to Understanding and Combatting Islamophobia: For a More Inclusive Canada. • Continued engagement with federal departments and agencies related to community concerns related to hate and discrimination, religious accommodations, data gathering, as well as the fears related to curtailment of civil liberties. • Participated in conferences, events, workshops, and presentations to raise awareness of Islamophobia, particularly to mark key dates such as the National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia and Canadian Islamic History Month events. • Participated in hearings held on Islamophobia at the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights. • Ongoing social media and media engagement to promote issues and highlight efforts to combat Islamophobia. • Broad engagement with national and local Canadian Muslim community groups and stakeholders to inform advice and guidance.

Key Outcome	Mandate Activities	Achievements
Supporting the federal government's efforts towards ensuring that Muslims in Canada are able to live with dignity, free from discrimination (Continued)		• Issuance of public statements related to Islamophobia, civil liberties, and key commemorations and occasions, including creation of a celebratory poster for Canadian Islamic History Month available for download. • Worked with officials to address concerns of Canadians seeking to bring family members to Canada through special immigration pathways, including from Gaza and Sudan. • Worked with Statistics Canada to produce infographics that highlight key figures related to Canadian Muslims.
Supporting the federal government's efforts towards tackling hate, both online and offline	• Providing guidance and advice to federal ministers to inform and improve efforts to track and monitor incidences of anti-Muslim hatred and violence across Canada.	• Supported the launch of Canada's Action Plan on Combatting Hate. • Provided ongoing advice to Public Safety Canada, and other relevant departments, regarding the rise of anti-Muslim hate crimes, and assisted in promoting the Canada Community Security Program and the Community Resilience Fund. • Frequent media engagement to highlight the threat to democratic values from the rise in hate.

Key Outcome	Mandate Activities	Achievements
		• Developed a memorandum of understanding with the Office of the Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime (OFOVC) and the Office of the Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism to support victims of crimes within federal jurisdiction and improve their access to services.
Supporting the federal government's efforts towards reducing bias within Canada's public service	• Offering guidance to responsible ministers to contribute to training, in support of national security agencies. • Providing advice to inform the development of policies, legislative proposals, programs, and regulations that could affect Canadian Muslims.	• Supported the Canada School of Public Service and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in the development of anti-Islamophobia training for public servants and members. • Identified best practices within the public service to protect against disinformation and misinformation related to Canadian Muslims. • Welcomed efforts to ensure the self-identification of religious minorities within the public service through employee surveys, and continued to support the adoption of government-wide efforts to improve data collection. • Supported and advised on the establishment of a contemplation space at the VIA Rail station in Ottawa.

The Special Representative meets with Mathieu Paquette, VIA Rail Canada's Chief Human Resources Officer, in August 2024, after OSRI was engaged to provide advice to the corporation on establishing a contemplation space at its Ottawa station for staff and passengers.

YEAR II – A Year of Growth

Recognizing the rising prevalence of Islamophobia and incidents targeting Muslims over the past year, the Government of Canada provided additional funding to OSRI in Budget 2024. This has enabled OSRI to hire additional policy analysts and administrative staff to further support its mandate objectives.

This staffing complement provides further capacity to help support the Special Representative's efforts to provide timely, specific, and actionable policy advice to the Government of Canada.

Key Highlights

OSRI continues its critical function of working as a bridge between communities and the federal government to improve understanding and identify potential policy solutions to ongoing and emerging issues. This includes convening roundtables, providing in-depth presentations and delivering keynote addresses at government conferences, as well as working with communities and civil society organizations to identify gaps and explore concerns.

OSRI also prioritizes the need to provide information and resources to the broader public on the topic of Islamophobia, social cohesion, inclusion, disinformation and hate, pluralism and religious freedom.

Providing Critical Resources for Canadians

Resources and training opportunities are a valuable way for Canadians to counter Islamophobia and promote inclusion and belonging. This past year, OSRI published and contributed to numerous resources to equip Canadians with the information and understanding they need.

The Canadian Guide to Understanding and Combatting Islamophobia: For a more inclusive Canada

One of OSRI's most important achievements this year was its publication of The Canadian Guide to Understanding and Combatting Islamophobia: For a more inclusive Canada.

Cover of the Canadian Guide to Understanding and Combatting Islamophobia: For a more inclusive Canada.

Developed in partnership with experts, members of Canadian Muslim communities, civil society organizations, and government partners, the Guide serves as a comprehensive resource for combatting Islamophobia across Canada. It empowers Canadians to recognize and dismantle Islamophobia, familiarizes and equips all Canadians with the tools and resources needed to make a positive difference within their communities, and provides useful information that can be incorporated in training and awareness initiatives in almost any setting.

> *"This Guide is an important contribution to understanding the specific experiences of Muslims in Canada. Identifying and combatting racism, hate, and discrimination is key to protecting fundamental human rights and building a Canada where everyone is valued and respected."*
>
> **— Charlotte-Anne Malischewski, Interim Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission**

> *"The Guide will support our efforts to create a more inclusive workplace culture, increase cultural intelligence and cultural humility, and will further build awareness of anti-racism and bias in the workforce."*
>
> **— Naghma Saeed Qureshi, Senior Human Resources Advisor, Engagement on Anti-Racism and Bias (EARB) Initiative, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Division, Human Resources Branch, Canada Revenue Agency**

> *"Islamophobia continues to be a significant barrier to equity and inclusion. This resource will help ensure that Muslim workers are reated fairly, with dignity and respect, fostering a more inclusive and equitable workplace for everyone, and contributing to greater community inclusion and safety for all."*
>
> **— Bea Bruske, Canadian Labour Congress President**

Strengthening ccess to Justice for Victims of Hate Crime in Canada

On Human Rights Day, the Office of the Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime (OFOVC) released a report titled, *Strengthening ccess to Justice for Victims of Hate Crime in Canada*. The OFVOC worked in collaboration with OSRI to learn about the experiences and impacts of hate crimes on Canadian Muslim communities.

The Special Representative participates in a press conference alongside Dr. Benjamin Roebuck and federal officials to launch the 'Strengthening Access to Justice for Victims of Hate Crime in Canada' report.

The Special Representative also continued her engagement with law enforcement agencies to raise the safety concerns of Canadian Muslim communities, building on work in Year I of the mandate.

> *"On behalf of the Peel Police Service Board, I am pleased to share the final report on the first community consultations regarding police governance and human rights [. . .] Your insights, alongside those of other participants, have shaped a document that addresses systemic challenges and emphasizes the importance of transparency, accountability, and trust."*
>
> **— Robert Serpe, Executive Director, Peel Police Service Board**

Canadian Islamic History Month

Canadian Islamic History Month was proclaimed by Parliament in 2007 to recognize the presence and contributions of Muslim communities to Canadian society.

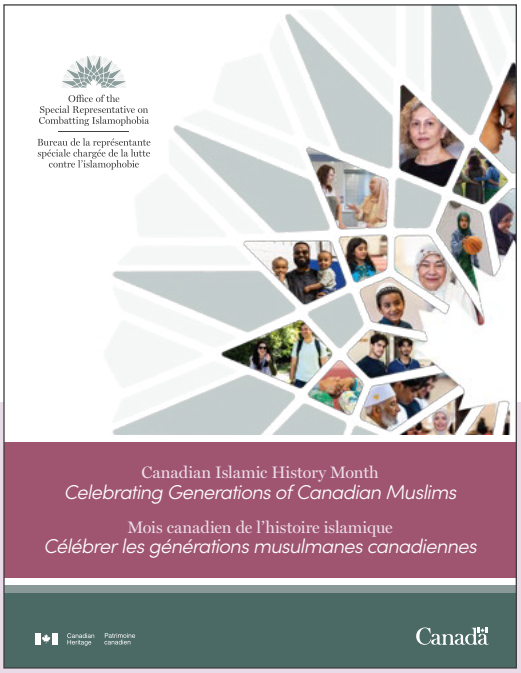
The Special Representative engaged in a variety of events and activities, including at school boards, mosques, private sector companies, a CBC Gem documentary launch event, numerous government and civil society conferences, a national youth summit, municipal events, a women's leadership panel, as well as presentations for government departments.

In partnership with the ga Khan Museum, the Special Representative joined Dr. Ulrike l-Khamis, Director and CEO of the museum, and Canadian Muslim artists Soheila Esfahani and Sashar Zarif to explore the power of the arts in bringing communities together.

LIVE TALK
Creative Dialogues: Muslim Contributions in the Arts
EN DIRECT
Dialogues Créatifs : Contributions musulmanes dans les Arts
AGA KHAN MUSEUM

Over 1400 students and members of the public attended "Creative Dialogues: Muslim Contributions in the Arts" in person and online during morning and evening programs at the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, Ontario.

dditionally, OSRI released a downloadable poster paying tribute to the rich contributions made by generations of Canadian Muslims, featuring community members of all ages and backgrounds.



The theme of Canadian Islamic History Month 2024 encouraged Canadians to learn about the historical presence of Canadian Muslims, celebrate their present contributions, and look forward to a prosperous, positive future.

Statistics Canada Infographic: The Muslim Population in Canada

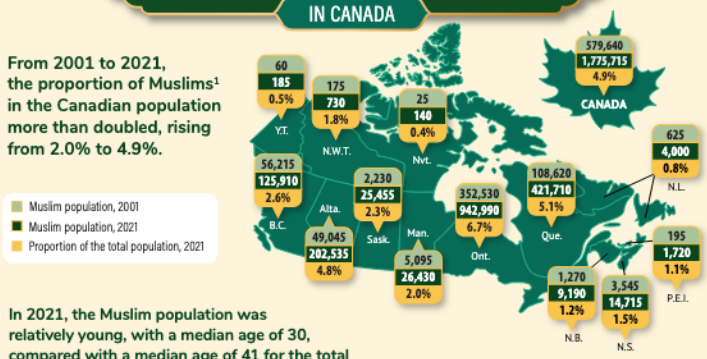
OSRI was pleased to collaborate with Statistics Canada to develop a series of infographics on the Muslim population in Canada, sharing valuable insights on these communities. With misinformation and disinformation fueling Islamophobia, data helps counter false narratives and provide accurate representation and information on the presence of Muslims in Canada. The infographics reached tens of thousands of Canadians online, garnering significant praise and appreciation.

> *"[This is] not just data—it's a story of growth, belonging, and representation. As a Muslim in Canada, I feel so seen and heard looking at this. A huge thank you to Amira Elghawaby and her team. This isn't just a celebration of numbers — it's a celebration of us, of inclusion, and of what's possible when representation leads to meaningful action."*
>
> **— Sidra Anjum, Board Member, Habitat for Humanity Canada**

Muslim Population

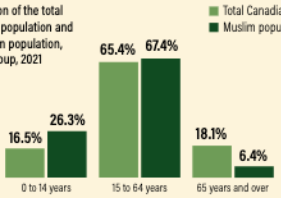
IN CANADA

From 2001 to 2021, the proportion of Muslims[1] in the Canadian population more than doubled, rising from 2.0% to 4.9%.



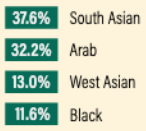
In 2021, the Muslim population was relatively young, with a median age of 30, compared with a median age of 41 for the total Canadian population.

Distribution of the total Canadian population and the Muslim population, by age group, 2021

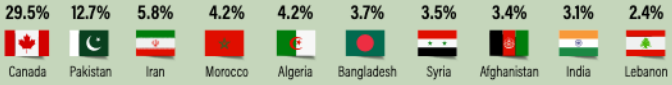


In 2021, South Asian was the largest racialized group among the Muslim population.

Muslim population in Canada

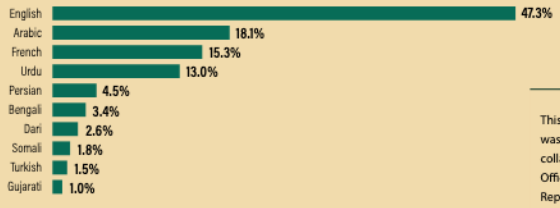


Top 10 countries of birth of the Muslim population in Canada, 2021



Top 10 languages spoken most often at home by the Muslim population in Canada

Proportion of the Muslim population in Canada, by language spoken most often at home, 2021



This infographic was developed in collaboration with the Office of the Special Representative on Combatting Islamophobia.

1. In this infographic, "Muslim" includes respondents who, in the question on religious affiliation in the Census of Population, reported Muslim, Ahmadi Muslim, Ibadi Muslim, Shi'a Muslim, Sunni Muslim or another Muslim affiliation.

Sources: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2001 and 2021.
Catalogue number: 11-627-M | ISBN: 978-0-660-74706-4

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Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

www.statcan.gc.ca

Canada

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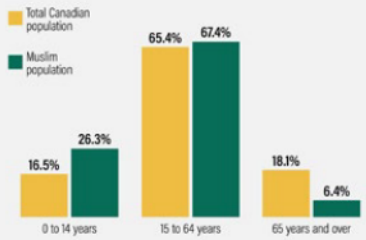

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

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Top 10 countries

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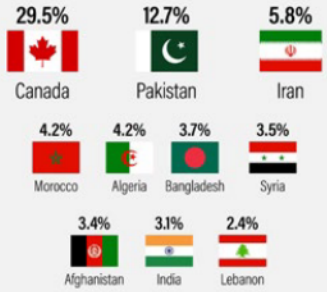

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

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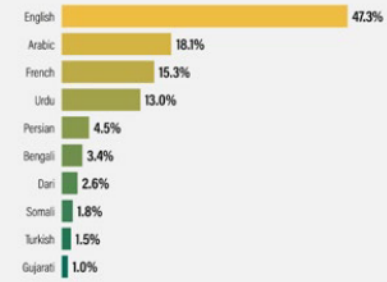
Top 10 languages

spoken most often at home by the Muslim population in Canada

Proportion of the Muslim population in Canada, by language spoken most often at home, 2021



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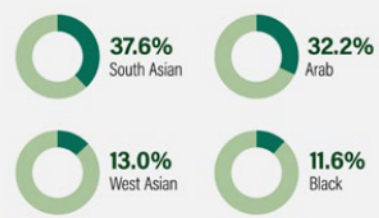
Muslim population in Canada



Note: "Muslim" includes respondents who, in the question on religious affiliation in the Census of Population, reported Muslim, Ahmadi Muslim, Ibadi Muslim, Shi'a Muslim, Sunni Muslim or another Muslim affiliation.
Source: The Muslim population in Canada.

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

nti-Islamophobia Training and Presentations for Canada's Public Service

The Special Representative was frequently invited to present to federal agencies and departments, as well as to participate in government-led conferences and workshops.

> *"Thank you for your impactful keynote address at the NSIC meeting on Rising Anti-Immigrant Sentiment in Canada. Your insightful remarks on the rise of Islamophobia, and the harmful misconceptions about Muslims, were both enlightening and crucial for our work in settlement and integration."*
>
> **— Catherine Scott, Assistant Deputy Minister, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada**

The Special Representative delivered presentations during Canadian Islamic History Month and to mark the National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque ttack and ction gainst Islamophobia, among other occasions.

The Special Representative provided guidance to the development of anti-Islamophobia training at the RCMP in collaboration with its nti-Racism, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Secretariat.

The Special Representative meets with Mike Duheme, RCMP Commissioner.

dditionally, OSRI collaborated with the Muslim Federal Employee Network and the Canada School of Public Service to launch a training module on ddressing Islamophobia in the Workplace, which is currently available to all public servants.

dvising the Government of Canada

Over the past year, OSRI has actively engaged with federal departments, agencies, and crown corporations—including Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC); the Canada Revenue gency (CR); Canadian Heritage; Women and Gender Equality; Justice Canada; Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS); Statistics Canada; Global ffairs Canada (G C); Treasury Board Secretariat; VI Rail Canada; and others—on a wide range of pressing issues.

These include the experiences of Muslim federal public servants, those seeking to bring family members to Canada from conflict areas such as Gaza and Sudan, and challenges Muslim charities are facing.

The Special Representative meets with the Hon. Mélanie Joly, then Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Special Representative also met with Government Ministers and senior officials to address critical policy concerns, including how Islamophobia—and its intersections with anti-Palestinian and anti- rab racism—continues to undermine Canada's social fabric and democratic values.

> *"I don't think I've ever felt more unsafe in Canada than I do right now."*
>
> **- 24-year-old Canadian Muslim woman of Palestinian descent who wears the *hij b***

Engaging Communities on Federal Initiatives to dvance Belonging, Safety and Inclusion

In addition to her work of advising the federal government in Ottawa, the Special Representative also attends a wide range of conferences, public events, and community engagements to highlight relevant federal programs and initiatives.

mong major federal initiatives launched in 2024 were Canada's ction Plan on Combatting Hate and Canada's nti-Racism Strategy 2024-2028. These programs expand the federal toolkit to support marginalized communities and equip them with the necessary resources, including the Canada Community Safety Program (formerly the Security Infrastructure Program).

The Special Representative participated in cultural events and programming and highlighted the Government of Canada's commitments towards empowering diverse voices in the media and cultural industries – a key initiative reflective of this commitment was the launch of the Changing Narratives Fund. The Fund is designed to empower diverse communities to share their stories, experiences, and perspectives and help advance accurate and authentic representation of the communities in the media, audiovisual, and cultural sectors. Specifically, for Canadian Muslim communities, countering harmful stereotypes through storytelling is a key element of countering Islamophobia.

The Special Representative meets with attendees of the Mosquers Film Festival in Edmonton, Alberta.

Representing Canada Internationally

While the mandate of the Special Representative is domestically focused, many international partners have proactively engaged with her, a recognition of the leadership Canada has demonstrated in addressing growing Islamophobia and anti-Muslim discrimination.

The Special Representative participated in international engagements, collaborating with like-minded countries, sharing Canada's experiences and learning about best practices to help inform recommendations here at home.

This includes representing Canada at the United Nations lliance of Civilizations and the World Economic Forum Faith in ction conference in New York, the HR30 Launch Conference in lbania, Coordination Meetings on Combatting nti-Muslim Hatred and Racism with the European Commission and the Council of Europe in Belgium, and at theand at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations during a side event of the 69th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

The Special Representative presents a keynote address on gendered Islamophobia at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations during the 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

1.

2.

3.

4.

1. The Special Representative addresses the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

2. The World Economic Forum Faith in Action Conference

3. The Concordia Forum's Annual Diplomatic Reception on the sidelines of the United Nations

4. The 2nd Coordination Meeting on Combatting Anti-Muslim Hatred and Racism with the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

In the News

Throughout the year, the Special Representative engaged with a variety of media outlets and platforms to discuss issues impacting Canadian Muslim communities, initiatives related to the office's mandate, and to support the launch of the *Canadian Guide to Understanding and Combatting Islamophobia: For a more inclusive Canada*.

The Special Representative offered wide-ranging analysis on a host of related topics, as an expert on the rise of online and offline hate, and addressing broader concerns related to civil liberties and inclusion. The Special Representative appeared on television, radio, podcasts, and in print media.

To mark Canadian Islamic History Month, the National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque ttack and ction on Islamophobia, the commemoration of the Our London Family attack, the Special Representative published opinion-editorials in newspapers to provide further insights and raise awareness.

The Special Representative providing an interview at the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec.

The Special Representative also engaged with thousands of Canadians through social media channels, at times, in collaboration with the Department of Canadian Heritage. This included a special video message to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque ttack and ction on Islamophobia.

dditionally, the Special Representative issued numerous public statements and published newsletters throughout the year.

Conclusion

This nnual Report summarizes the activities undertaken by the Special Representative between pril 2024 and March 2025 as per her mandate. These efforts are meant to strengthen and support Canadians' shared values of inclusion, pluralism, respect for human rights, and multiculturalism.

s illustrated throughout the report, these initiatives engage Canadians of all backgrounds in a myriad of ways, including by centering the voices of those most impacted by Islamophobia. Together, the work of OSRI helps unlock Canada's collective potential by advancing a Canada where we all belong.

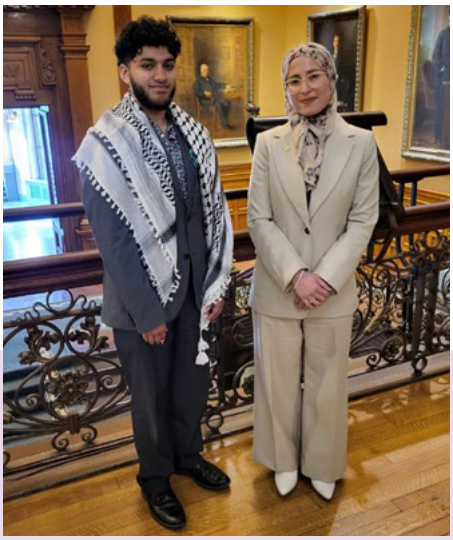
Appendix A

Year II Public Engagements*

- Addressed the inaugural launch of the Coordination Meeting on Combatting Anti-Muslim Hatred and Racism, co-organized by the European Commission and the Council of Europe — March 2024
- Met with Justice Minister and Attorney General to discuss Canada's online harms legislation — March 2024
- Met with Universities Canada — May 2024
- Met with Senator Pierre J. Dalphond with an appearance in the Senate of Canada — May 2024

The Special Representative meets with Senator Pierre J. Dalphond, Senator Mohammad Al Zaibak and Senator David Arnot at the Senate of Canada.

- Met with the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to discuss rising Islamophobia and community safety concerns — June 2024
- Met with Ontario Premier Doug Ford and community members — June 2024
- Met with the President of CBC/Radio-Canada to raise concerns about Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian bias in media coverage — June 2024
- Met with Public Service Management Advisory Committee — June 2024
- Met with Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies in New York — September 2024
- Met with the Director of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations — September 2024
- Met with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada officials regarding support for Palestinians coming to Canada from Gaza — September 2024



The Special Representative with Esa Islam, cousin of the late Yumnah Afzaal, at Queen's Park, for meetings with Members of Provincial Parliament, including the Premier of Ontario, to discuss rising Islamophobia

- Met with the Office of the Minister of Public Safety to discuss the Canada Community Security Program — October 2024
- Held multiple meetings with the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association to discuss the Islamophobia hotline initiative in the province — October 2024
- Met with University of Manitoba president to discuss recommendations on how to ensure universities uphold civil liberties and protect against Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian racism, and anti-Arab racism — October 2024
- Met with Minister of Diversity, Inclusion, and Persons with Disabilities and community members — October 2024
- Met with the Prime Minister of Canada on the rise in Islamophobia and protecting civil liberties — November 2024
- Met with the Clerk of the Privy Council to share updates on the work of the Office and advise on behalf of Muslim Federal employees — November 2024
- Conducted a workshop and knowledge exchange with the Office of the Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime, discussing the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Practical Guide on Understanding Anti-Muslim Hate Crimes — November 2024
- Met with the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to relay community concerns — November 2024
- Met with the Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities to discuss key policy issues facing communities — November 2024
- Met with the Mayor of Calgary to raise awareness of the Office and its mandate — November 2024
- Met with the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada to discuss special measures for Gaza and Sudan — December 2024
- Met with Treasury Board officials to discuss voluntary self-identification of public servants — December 2024

- Met with European Union Coordinator on Combatting Anti-Muslim Hatred and the Special Envoy to Combat Islamophobia in Australia — January 2025
- Addressed the HR30 Conference in Albania, alongside UN and civil society leaders — January 2025
- Addressed the National Council of Canadian Muslims Leadership Policy Summit — January 2025
- Met with the Director of Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) — February 2025

The Special Representative meets with Daniel Rogers, Director of CSIS

- Held multiple meetings with officials at Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada regarding special measures for Sudan and Gaza — February 2025
- Attended the Government of Canada's Official Black History Month Celebration for 2025 alongside Ministers and Members of Parliament — February 2025
- Engaged in a meeting with Senators and representatives from the National Council of Canadian Muslims to discuss community priorities — February 2025
- Addressed the second Coordination Meeting on Combating Anti-Muslim Hatred, co-organized by the European Commission and Council of Europe, and several international roundtables and meetings focused on countering anti-Muslim racism and hate — March 2025
- Met with Canada's Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the United Nations, and presented to staff at Canada's Permanent Mission to the United Nations – March 2025
- Ongoing meetings with Quebec Muslim community leaders and members, January – March 2025
- Met with the United Nations Under-Secretary General for Global Communications – March 2025
- Met with the National Security Transparency Advisory Group – Multiple meetings 2024/2025

Year II Public Education and wareness*

- Presented at the Ethno-Cultural and Religious Diversity Committee at the Ottawa Police Service to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – March 2024
- Addressed the *Voices in Action Networking Breakfast* for Asian Heritage Month with Ottawa students — May 2024
- Attended Reflections from a *Vacant Lot: In Conversation with Mira Sucharov and Omar M. Dajani*, Global Centre for Pluralism — May 2024
- Met with University of Toronto Muslim Students Association — May 2024
- Addressed the Canadian Vote Summit 2024 by the Democratic Engagement Exchange — June 2024
- Addressed the launch of the Anti-Muslim strategy by the Thames Valley District School Board — June 2024

The Special Representative speaking at the launch of the Anti-Muslim strategy by the Thames Valley District School Board, in honour of Our London Family.

"Thank you, Amira, for your powerful keynote address at the community dinner and commemorative event. On behalf of the Equity team and the Thames Valley Distract School Board, we deeply appreciate your support of the Anti-Muslim Strategy and your impactful messages."

- Purveen Skinner, Superintendent of Student Achievement, Thames Valley District School Board

- Addressed the third commemoration of the Our London Family attack – June 2024
- Participated in the 8th Annual Palestine Day on the Hill – June 2024
- Addressed the Muslim Medical Association of Canada's Annual Banquet — June 2024

The Special Representative with participants at the 8th Annual Palestine Day on the Hill in Ottawa.

- Addressed the National Council of Canadian Muslims' Student Leadership Summit in Toronto, encouraging youth civic engagement — August 2024

The Special Representative provides a keynote address at the NCCM Student Leadership Summit.

- Participated in community roundtables on Anti-Palestinian racism — August 2024
- Addressed the Solidarité Djibouti Canada (SODCAN) Annual Gala — August 2024
- Participated in the Silk Road Literary Festival — August 2024
- Addressed the *Combatting Racism and Hate Speech* event hosted by the Montreal Council of Women — September 2024
- Addressed the Concordia Forum Annual Diplomatic Reception on sidelines of United Nations General Assembly — September 2024
- Addressed the National Council of Canadian Muslims' *Online Harms Conference*, focusing on digital safety and countering hate — September 2024
- Addressed the Muslim Women's Forum in British Columbia, highlighting intersectionality and leadership — September 2024
- Addressed the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations — Promoting Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development through Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue — September 2024
- Addressed the Durham District School Board's Affirming Muslim Identities Conference — October 2024

The Special Representative speaks to students, staff, and teachers during a student conference at Durham District School Board.

- Addressed Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's National Settlement and Integration Council, focusing on newcomer settlement and integration needs — October 2024
- Delivered a Canadian Islamic History Month presentation on Islamophobia to employees at the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission — October 2024
- Addressed The Canadian Muslim Vote's *Beyond the Vote Youth Summit*, supporting youth advocacy and democratic engagement — October 2024
- Addressed the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's equity presentation alongside Muslim and Jewish advocates and leaders — October 2024

- Addressed the *Mosquers Film Festival* in Edmonton — October 2024
- Delivered a presentation for Canadian Islamic History Month at Gowling WLG — October 2024
- Addressed the Assunnah Muslims Association's Canadian Islamic History Month event — October 2024
- Addressed the launch of the Mujaadilah Centre in Ottawa, dedicated to research and dialogue on issues affecting Muslim women in Canada — October 2024
- Addressed Carleton University's conference on *Reimagining Political Journalism* — October 2024
- Addressed the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants, Leaders Forum — October 2024
- Attended the Canadian Race Relations Foundation's *Finding Common Ground* conference, focused on combating hate and racism — October 2024
- Addressed the *Muslim Social Services Community Builder Awards Gala* in Kitchener — November 2024
- Addressed the National Council of Canadian Muslim's *Leadership Policy Summit*, highlighting community advocacy and legislative impact — November 2024
- Addressed the *4th Annual Middle East Strategy Forum* — November 2024
- Addressed the Canadian Council of Imams *Annual Gala* — December 2024
- Met with Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton – December 2024

The Special Representative meets with Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton in Ottawa to discuss the need for greater solidarity against hate.

- Addressed the Urban Alliance on Race Relations Foundation Awards Ceremony and received Racial Justice Award — December 2024

The Special Representative receives the 'Award for Racial Justice – in Government' from the Urban Alliance on Race Relations.

- Addressed the Restore Somali Foundation: Youth Leadership Gala — December 2024
- Addressed the Khayrhaye Gala, Somali community event — December 2024
- Addressed the *Canadian Muslim Youth Project Symposium* in Calgary, empowering youth leaders — January 2025
- Addressed the *Muslims in Media* panel hosted by the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec and Thé pour la paix – Commémoration de l'attentat contre la Grande Mosquée de Québec — January 2025
- Addressed the Muslim Employee Network at Metrolinx on fostering unity through diversity and anti-Islamophobia practices — January 2025
- Addressed the Canadian Muslim Public Affairs Council *Strengthening Solidarity Across the Charity Sector* conference — January 2025
- Delivered a presentation at the Employment Insurance Contact Centre's *National Day of Remembrance* virtual event — January 2025
- Delivered a presentation at Islington United Church in Toronto on faith-based community building and combatting Islamophobia — January 2025
- Attended the *4th National Black Canadians Summit* in Montreal, supporting cross-community solidarity — January 2025
- Addressed Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) Canada's *HonesTea* event, fostering intergenerational dialogue and reflection — February 2025

- Addressed the Muslim Federal Employees Network Toronto Luncheon event — February 2025
- Addressed the Canadian Muslim Women's Institute conference on *Muslim Women's Contributions and Equity* at the Canadian Human Rights Museum in Manitoba, and delivered a presentation to CHRM staff — February 2025
- Addressed the Syrian Canadian Foundation's *Equity in Action Summit*, focused on women's engagement in public life — February 2025
- Addressed *Muslimahs at Toronto City Hall*, focusing on Muslim women's civic leadership — February 2025
- Addressed University of Calgary's Faculty of Social Work *Symposium on Youth Experiences with Islamophobia* — March 2025
- Delivered a presentation at the Culture Change and Humility in Policing at the Canadian Police College — February 2025
- Addressed the *DawaNet Conference*, addressing faith-driven social advocacy and youth engagement — March 2025
- Addressed *Islam Awareness Week* at the University of Ottawa — March 2025
- Addressed *Gendered Islamophobia and the Global Gender Equality Agenda* on the margins of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York, co-hosted by Canada's Permanent Mission to the United Nations — March 2025

**Note: This is not an exhaustive list of engagements.*

Appendix B

2024-2025 By the Numbers

Type	Approximate Numbers	Regions/Cities/ Coverage Area/ Description
Policy-Related Meetings	173	National
Community Engagement (meetings, roundtables, conferences, speaking engagements)	272	• Ontario • Alberta • Quebec • Manitoba • British Columbia
Media Engagement	39	National and local media
Community Tours	9	• London (Ontario) • Calgary • Edmonton • Winnipeg • Quebec City • Montreal • Greater Toronto Area (GTA) • Vancouver • Ottawa

Type	Approximate Numbers	Regions/Cities/ Coverage Area/ Description
Announcements and Press Conferences	5	• Canada's Action Plan on Combatting Hate • VIA Rail – Ottawa station launch of contemplation space • Office of the Federal Ombudsperson for Victims of Crime • Thames Valley District School Board • Canadian Guide to Understanding and Combatting Islamophobia: For a more inclusive Canada release
International Engagements	5	• First and Second Coordination Meetings on Anti-Muslim Hatred, co-organized by the European Commission and the Council of Europe • United Nations Alliance of Civilizations – Promoting Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development through Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue • World Economic Forum Faith in Action conference • HR30 Launch Conference • Presentations at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations during the 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Type	Approximate Numbers	Regions/Cities/ Coverage Area/ Description
Briefing Notes and Policy Advice to Government Departments and Agencies	15+	• Canada Revenue Agency • Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada • Department of Public Safety • Global Affairs Canada • Employment and Social Development Canada • Women and Gender Equality Canada • Privy Council Office • Prime Minister's Office • Canadian Heritage • Transport Canada • Treasury Board Secretariat • Canadian Security and Intelligence Service • Royal Canadian Mounted Police • Office of the Federal Ombudsperson